

**ST JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC CHURCH
PONTE VEDRA, FLORIDA**



ST. JOHN PAUL II

CATHOLIC CHURCH

K-6 Family of Faith HANDBOOK
(including First Holy Communion and Reconciliation)

2023-24

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Faith Formation is an important part of growing and developing our faith in Christ, at any age.

Parents are called and empowered by Christ to fulfill their *mission to proclaim the Gospel of Life* by helping their children grow closer to Him and better understand God's love for them. Our Family Faith Formation program centers on the importance of parents as their child's primary catechists. We offer engaging and inspiring resources for families with children in Kindergarten through 6th grade and plan community gatherings for fellowship and experiential prayer.

Since all of this is lived out in the context of parish life, families must be registered at Saint John Paul II and participate in weekly weekend liturgies. Each parent is also strongly encouraged to engage in at least one parish ministry, some of which can be found here: <https://nocateecatholic.com/ministries/>

Family of Faith Formation for **Grades K-6** will consist of:

- Sophia Institute Press **Family of Faith** Curriculum: the Sacraments
- *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies*
- Monthly **Parent Formation Meetings** typically the 1st Thursday of each month starting in September
- Monthly **Family Community Meetings** (Thursday evening or Sunday afternoon)
- Weekly Mass Attendance and other Parish Activities/Celebrations
- Preparation for 1st Reconciliation and Holy Communion (if applicable)

Why Family Faith Formation? Studies show that parents are the MOST IMPORTANT element in a child's faith-life. This is why the Church asks parents, at their child's Baptism, to accept the responsibility of forming their child in the practice of the faith. This program is designed to give you the tools and confidence to live that promise! Family formation is not just a program, but also a way of life. It provides parents with the tools needed not only to teach the faith but to live it more intentionally.

PARENT MEETINGS

Parents attend a **Parent Formation Night** the first Thursday of each month. These evenings provide guidance for the material to be covered at home that month and opportunity for personal spiritual growth with other parents.

FAMILY COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The whole family comes to a **Family Community Meeting** either one Thursday or Sunday each month where they can share what they've learned and grow in friendship with Christ and each other.

ST. JOSEPH WORKSHOPS

Many parents enjoy the flexibility of covering two lessons a month at home, according to their own schedule. For those who would prefer to gather with other families, Saint Joseph Workshops will be offered each month. **Lead families** will coordinate these workshops where families can gather with neighboring families to complete the **Family of Faith** lessons together and grow in friendship. If you would like to know more about serving as a lead family, please contact Dominic Salamida at flc@nocateecatholic.com

ATTENDANCE/PARISH EVENTS

Attendance will be taken at **Parent Formation Meetings** and **Family Community Meetings**. Parents should attend at least 5 of the 8 Parent Formation Meetings and families should attend at least 5 of the 8 Family Community Meetings in order to be considered fully participating. Parents with extenuating circumstances are asked to reach out to the Family Life Coordinator for consultation regarding attendance.

Parents' efforts to help their family members encounter Christ are strengthened through regular participation in the sacramental life of the Church by attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days and receiving the Sacraments (Reconciliation and Holy Communion). Catholic identity is also fostered by participation in the cultural festive celebrations of faith, retreats and actively giving service to others. Families are encouraged to view all of these as components of vibrant family faith formation.

K-6 FAMILY OF FAITH CALENDAR



2023 - 24

K-6 Faith Formation

Parent Faith Formation Orientation Thursday: August 17, 2023 @ 6pm

<p><i>September</i></p> <p><u>Parent Formation Night:</u> Thursday, 9/7 @ 6pm</p> <p><u>Family Community Meetings:</u> Thursday, 9/14 @ 6pm or Sunday, 9/17 @ 1:30pm</p>	<p><i>October</i></p> <p><u>Parent Formation Night:</u> Thursday, 10/5 @ 6pm</p> <p><u>Family Community Meetings:</u> Thursday, 10/12 @ 6pm or Sunday, 10/15 @ 1:30pm</p>	<p><i>November</i></p> <p><u>Parent Formation Night:</u> Thursday, 11/2 @ 6pm</p> <p><u>Family Community Meetings:</u> Thursday, 11/16 @ 6pm or Sunday, 11/19 @ 1:30pm Friendsgiving</p>
<p><i>December</i></p> <p><u>Parent Formation Night:</u> Thursday, 12/7 @ 6pm</p> <p><u>Family Community Meetings:</u> Thursday, 12/14 @ 6pm or Sunday, 12/17 @ 1:30pm</p>	<p><i>January</i></p> <p><u>Parent Formation Night:</u> Thursday, 1/11 @ 6pm</p> <p><u>Family Community Meetings:</u> Thursday, 1/18 @ 6pm or Sunday, 1/21 @ 1:30pm</p>	<p><i>February</i></p> <p><u>Parent Formation Night:</u> Thursday, 2/1 @ 6pm</p> <p><u>Family Community Meetings:</u> Thursday, 2/15 @ 6pm or Sunday, 2/18 @ 1:30pm</p>
<p><i>March</i></p> <p><u>Parent Formation Night:</u> Thursday, 3/7 @ 6pm</p> <p><u>Family Community Meetings:</u> Thursday, 3/21 @ 6pm or Sunday, 3/24 @ 1:30pm</p>	<p><i>April</i></p> <p><u>Parent Formation Night:</u> Thursday, 4/11 @ 6pm</p> <p><u>Family Community Meetings:</u> Thursday, 4/18 @ 6pm or Sunday, 4/21 @ 1:30pm</p>	<p><i>End of Year Celebration</i></p> <p><u>May 19, 2024 after the Noon Mass</u> <i>Join us for our 3rd Annual Faith Formation End of the Year Celebration! More details closer to event.</i></p>



K-6 Faith Formation with First Holy Communion



The beautiful children that you have brought into the world by God's grace, named and carried to the Church for baptism, are now ready to make another step of initiation into the Church. They have reached the time to begin the preparation for their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. *Participation in the sacraments is a shared responsibility of parents, catechists, and the assembly of believers united in Christ. The following is a general overview of how this process occurs within our parish.*

THE SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The Diocese of St. Augustine guidelines require a consecutive two (2) year process to receive First Reconciliation and First Communion. This process begins when you enroll your child/youth in the SJPII K-6 **Family of Faith** program or at a Diocese of St. Augustine Catholic School or in a homeschool program. The first year of study helps the children/youth come to a foundational knowledge of Jesus. They learn what Jesus teaches us about God's love for us and how we can respond to that love. The second year of the process continues these themes and provides the children/youth with a growing sense of their Catholic identity. It is during the second year that children/youth celebrate First Reconciliation/Communion.

PARENT/CHILD CLASS MEETINGS

In addition to participating in the K-6 **Family of Faith** program, additional immediate prep sessions are required for those preparing for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and Holy Communion beginning in January. Two sessions are attended by the parents and child between January and April. See calendar for specific dates.

RETREATS

Each student receiving the First Sacraments at SJPII will be required to attend a retreat. Retreats are designed to remind them of what they have learned and give them opportunities to encounter Christ through prayer, reflection and interaction. If a child is unable to attend our St. John Paul II First Communion Retreat, parents must reach out to another parish to ensure the child participates in that retreat instead.

1ST RECONCILIATION

First Reconciliation takes place in the spring the Saturday before the celebration of First Holy Communion.

Here is a resource for an examination of conscience for First Reconciliation for Children from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: [Let the Children Come: The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Children | USCCB](#)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES

First Holy Communion is celebrated at SJPII with our fellow parishioners in the context of our regular weekend liturgies as the entire parish community embraces and celebrates the deeper union of the children with Christ and the Church. First Holy Communion masses will be offered typically the first two weekends of May.

Mass is celebrated at SJPII on Saturdays @ 4pm or 6pm and Sundays @ 8am, 10am, or 12pm. Each family will choose a date and time via a sign up that will be sent out in an email in January. Seats are limited for each mass.

MAY CROWNING





The month of May is set aside as a time to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary as the *Mother of God* and the *Mother of the Church*. She is also honored with the title *Mother of the Eucharist*. With this in mind, all First Communion children are asked to come (dressed in First Communion garb) to the May Crowning on the first Saturday of May to participate in a procession to crown the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This will also be the morning of the celebration of First Reconciliation followed by a social. More details will be given closer to the celebration. Together let us honor Jesus by honoring His Holy Mother who helps us in our journey of faith in this life!

1ST COMMUNION ATTIRE GUIDELINES

1st Holy Communion

GIRL ATTIRE







-  White modest dress with white shoes. No strapless dresses.
-  If the dress has spaghetti straps, please wear a sweater or shawl while you are in the church.
-  Veils are optional.
-  Dress shoes only. Girls may wear dressy white open-toes shoes if they are appropriate.

1st Holy Communion

BOY ATTIRE



-  Dress pants with a white button down shirt.
-  Sports coat and tie are optional.
-  A white suit is appropriate but not required.
-  Dress shoes only. No athletic shoes, flip flops or sandals.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CALENDAR

2023 - 24



*K-6 Faith Formation
with First Holy Communion*



Parent Faith Formation Orientation Thursday: August 17, 2023 @ 6pm

<p><i>September</i></p> <p>Parent Formation Night: Thursday, 9/7 @ 6pm</p> <p>Family Community Meetings: Thursday, 9/14 @ 6pm or Sunday, 9/17 @ 1:30pm</p>	<p><i>October</i></p> <p>Parent Formation Night: Thursday, 10/5 @ 6pm</p> <p>Family Community Meetings: Thursday, 10/12 @ 6pm or Sunday, 10/15 @ 1:30pm</p>	<p><i>November</i></p> <p>Parent Formation Night: Thursday, 11/2 @ 6pm</p> <p>Family Community Meetings: Thursday, 11/16 @ 6pm or Sunday, 11/19 @ 1:30pm Friendsgiving</p>
<p><i>December</i></p> <p>Parent Formation Night: Thursday, 12/7 @ 6pm</p> <p>Family Community Meetings: Thursday, 12/14 @ 6pm or Sunday, 12/17 @ 1:30pm</p>	<p><i>January</i></p> <p>Parent Formation Night: Thursday, 1/11 @ 6pm</p> <p>Family Community Meetings: Thursday, 1/18 @ 6pm or Sunday, 1/21 @ 1:30pm</p> <p>1st Holy Communion Parent & Student Class: Thursday, 1/25 @ 6pm</p>	<p><i>February</i></p> <p>Parent Formation Night: Thursday, 2/1 @ 6pm</p> <p>Family Community Meetings: Thursday, 2/15 @ 6pm or Sunday, 2/18 @ 1:30pm</p> <p>1st Holy Communion Parent & Student Class: Thursday, 2/22 @ 6pm</p>
<p><i>March</i></p> <p>Parent Formation Night: Thursday, 3/7 @ 6pm</p> <p>Family Community Meetings: Thursday, 3/21 @ 6pm or Sunday, 3/24 @ 1:30pm</p>	<p><i>April</i></p> <p>Parent Formation Night: Thursday, 4/11 @ 6pm</p> <p>Family Community Meetings: Thursday, 4/18 @ 6pm or Sunday, 4/21 @ 1:30pm</p> <p>RETREAT: 4/13 or 4/20 (Attend one of the two) Time TBD</p>	<p><i>May</i></p> <p>1st Holy Communion May Crowning Event (Required) May 4th: Time TBD</p> <p>1st Holy Communion Masses: Weekends of May 4th/5th and May 11th/12th</p> <p>End of the Year Celebration: May 19th after Noon Mass</p>